IV

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS.

GRANT XVI—PUBLIC HEALTH AND VITAL STATISTICS—TRANSFERRED.

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I move

' *that the Government be granted a further sum not exceeding Rs. 6,000 under Grant XXI—Public Health and Vital Statistics—Transferred to provide for a contribution towards the cost of investigation of maternal disease.*'

" Sir, a note, explaining the purpose for which this grant is required has already been circulated to the members and I think it is unnecessary to repeat what is said therein. Hon. Members will agree that this investigation will be of very valuable assistance to the province and I move that the demand be granted."

* Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" Mr. President, Sir, I rise to oppose this grant, not because I do not believe in the value of research work in matters especially of maternal disease, but because I consider that this is a very ineffective way of doing that reasearch work. The note circulated to us does not even suggest any possible benefit in any direction to this Presidency. It is all very well to have great regard for high personages—I have my own regard for very high personages—but it is another matter to answer the call of every high personage for the mere reason that such high personages in their heart of hearts mean well by us. We are called upon to contribute to research work that is to go on all through the country. Research work somewhere in a corner by one person will not be enough in this matter. Every presidency has to make its own arrangements for such research. There are local conditions which differ very materially in this country and the research work also will have to take different lines. I am sure that the medical science is not immutable, is not unchangeable ; it is empirical, and rests upon local experience. Local circumstances have a great influence in determining the remedies to be sought. Therefore it is very difficult for men like me to understand why this grant should be made for some work somewhere. We are called upon to vote Rs. 6,000 ; and funds for this research work are supposed to come from the Indian Research Fund Association and the various provinces in India. The amount estimated for this is Rs. 38,000. Out of that, Rs. 6,000 has been assigned to us. I do not know how these figures were arrived at. There are a large number of provinces in this country and what their share or that of the Indian Research Fund Association would be we do not know. Why this Rs. 6,000 has been put on the Madras Presidency I cannot divine. It must be because this is a very docile presidency and we are prepared to grant the request of high personages like Lady Irwin. Her Excellency may be actuated by very noble motives, but to grant out of the tax-payers' money more than a proportionate share that may fall to us if properly accounted, is not the proper way of doing things. Therefore, I feel that in addition to the ineffectiveness of this kind of research for purposes of this Presidency or for the matter of that, for purposes of India, I feel there is an injustice involved in the financial arrangement. I have therefore thought it necessary to oppose this motion."

* Dr. (Mrs) S. MUTHULAKSHMI REDDI:—" Mr. President, Sir, I have great pleasure in supporting the motion of the hon. the Minister for Public Health. I feel there is great necessity for this kind of investigation, especially when India records such a high maternal and infantile mortality. I am glad and I am really thankful to Lady Irwin for having taken the initiative in the matter, because Dr. Balfour, an experienced medical lady, when she was here last time, took the trouble of addressing a ladies' meeting when she spoke about the necessity for research work in India. She told us she had been to London to attend the International Conference of Medical Women, and the medical women from other countries gave a very full account of the causation of maternal disease while she, as a representative from India, could not give, and she also alluded to the fact that there is no woman medical officer in the Public Health Department in any of the provinces in India. She said she felt very sorry about it and as soon as she returned from the Conference, undertook this work as a labour of love, and as the result of her investigation she has given us very useful information as to the causation of maternal disease. If the hon. Member had gone through the publications of the *Indian Medical Gazette*, surely he would not have made these remarks. She has furnished us very useful information on this subject. She has been visiting every province and she also issued a questionnaire to all Indian and British hospitals in India. She has found that certain diseases are peculiar to India, that certain diseases are common to all countries and that in India there are diseases peculiar to tropical climates, such as malarial, anæmia, and hookworm. Again, she has found that certain communities like the Brahman community recorded very high maternity mortality, as high as 32 out of every 1,000 mothers. The educationally advanced Christian and Parsi communities record a very low death-rate. This is certainly a very useful information.

"Now, diseases like hookworm and malaria assume very virulent forms in pregnant women and children. We have also fœtal diseases like the tropical cirrhosis of the liver. In this connexion I will take the opportunity of thanking all the Vicereines, who have helped the cause of women's medical relief. First the Lady Dufferin Fund was started and now we have got a large number of medical women trained through the help of that fund. Then was started the Lady Hardinge Hospital. Even though it is located at Delhi students are flocking to that place from all parts of India. I had the pleasure of visiting that college and I found that even though there was accommodation only for 90, they had to admit 120. I also visited Lady Reading's Health School. We badly need a health school at Madras. Every province has got one; Bengal has got it, Central Provinces has got one, Bombay has got one. But still the Delhi school is doing very good work and attracting students from South India. There is also the Lady Chelmsford Maternity League which I visited. So I hope this work begun by Lady Irwin will bear much fruit and benefit all India. A sum of Rs. 6,000 is after all small and it is the duty of every community to take care of the mothers who are the originators of the race, and such an expenditure must be the first charge on the finance of every province. With these few words, I support the motion."

* Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"Sir, I have personally no knowledge of maternal disease. But I ask what are the real causes of the diseases of women in this country. Anæmia is said to be one. By what causes is it brought about? It is brought about by the poverty of the people. As President of

the Health and Welfare Association I have made some enquiries, and I have ascertained that the real causes of the disease of women is poverty and insanitation, child marriage and want of hospitals and want of agency for looking after them. Now instead of trying to remove these causes, what is the use of research into particular incidence of maternal diseases in this country? Most of the diseases of women in India are common to women all over the world. Here in India, the real causes cannot be cured by special research work. Let Government first of all spend more money on hospitals and on agencies like health and welfare centres. That will be much better than spending money on this research work going on somewhere, and in a manner which may or may not be very satisfactory. The result of this grant will be that some people will get some jobs. Are they going to appoint any lady doctors of India to do the necessary research?

12-30 p.m. "What I suspect is that this grant is intended for making provision for a job for an European gentleman. Have we not got men in India with sufficient experience and sufficient education to be appointed for this post? I am not raising any racial question or anything of that kind. I am asking for bare justice being done to Indians. Besides, as usual, we are given only meagre information with reference to this grant. We have been given only the outline of a scheme without any necessary information. On these grounds I oppose this motion."

* Mr. A. B. Shetty :—" Mr. President, Sir, I have not been able to understand why my hon. Friend, Mr. Saldanha, does not believe in the utility of research in connexion with maternal disease in our country. The progress of all medical science is mainly due to research work. Our ancient system of medicine is at a standstill because no research work is being done and nothing new is being discovered. Hon. Friends on the opposite benches are inclined to attribute the high rate of maternal mortality in our country to the poverty and ignorance prevailing here. These twin curses have been with us for a long time and we cannot afford to sit with folded hands till they are removed. Year after year the report of the Public Health administration in our province has been drawing pointed attention to the very large number of maternal deaths taking place here. According to the latest report 30,000 mothers die each year from preventible causes connected with pregnancy and child-birth. The maternal mortality rate in our presidency is as high as 20 per 1,000 births. In England they have by means of various measures reduced the maternal death-rate to 4·5 per 1,000 births. Yet they are not satisfied with the results achieved and they are said to have appointed a special committee to make further research into the matter.

" The infantile death-rate also is high in our province. It is 175 per 1,000 births. The solution of the problem of child welfare also lies to a great extent in promoting the health and welfare of mothers. I trust, therefore, that this House will unanimously support this demand."

* Mr. K. V. R. Swami :—" It appears to me that we are asked to support this motion probably owing to two causes. The one is that the appeal comes from Lady Irwin, and the other is that it is supported by our Deputy President. Apart from that I do not think there is much usefulness in making research work. What we are suffering from is not want of research work, but want of means to make those methods already known to the world to the people concerned. It is no doubt true that the rate of mortality is

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very high in this Presidency. My hon. Friend, Mr. Shetty, is comparing the rate of mortality in England with that in this country. It is not because that there is no research work that the rate of mortality is very high here but the chief reason is that we have not got enough of hospitals and enough means to spread the knowledge that is available to the people concerned. The amount wanted is already Rs. 38,000. By and by they may require more. In these matters we should not compare the conditions prevailing in other countries with those in our country. We are not even able to provide midwives to attend to all maternity cases. So many illiterate women who do not know anything in maternity science are attending to cases in this very province. When a question was raised in this House more than once the usual reply given to us was 'There is no sufficient money, we are doing it gradually and slowly as moneys are available.' That was the reply given to us. It may be to a certain extent true that we have not got sufficient funds. It is all the more necessary therefore that we must utilize the small sums that are available most carefully and usefully and economize our wasteful expenditure. As soon as some new idea strikes us we should not think that we are just living in England, America, or Australia where conditions are very different from ours. It will be surprising to the outside world to know that India cannot provide even midwives to attend to maternity cases, and it is extraordinary that we should think of research work instead of spending the moneys in useful directions. My impression is that medical men who are said to be noted for their special ability in Western Medical Science are doing some work in this direction, but from the speech of the hon. the Deputy President, who is a competent authority to speak on matters of this kind, it appears that medical people are not taking sufficient interest in this matter. Sir, these are the reasons on account of which we oppose this motion."

Mr. S. Arpudaswami Udayar :—" Sir, I support this motion. Hon. Members who have objected to it have said that means should be found for reducing poverty and finally for multiplying hospitals. I think this research work will facilitate the reduction in the death rate. We were told by my hon. Friend from South Kanara that mortality is very high in this Presidency. I must point out that mortality is certainly large among the middle class families and richer families than in poorer families. Therefore this research work will not only relieve the poorer classes but also the higher classes. With regard to the question of lack of hospitals, research work will certainly result in the starting of more maternity hospitals. Therefore the very grounds on which my hon. Friends have objected to the passing of this grant are, on the contrary, very good reasons for insisting upon the kind of research work that is contemplated upon. My friend the hon. Member from Godavari spoke of the results of research work carried on in other countries. Surely, those people who will be entrusted with this task of research will take into consideration all those results arrived at in other parts of the world and will proceed with their work in such a way as to benefit the people of this country. With regard to the nature of this research work and especially the point aised by my hon. Friend that it is not right that you should ask these doctors, who already have no time to attend to their regular work, to do research work, what we require is that some specialists should be deputed for this work untrammelled and unhampered by ordinary duties such as attending

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to their work in hospitals, etc. For all these reasons I think I would do well to support the motion before the House."

Mr. SYED TAJUDDIN SAHIB :—"The concensus of medical opinion strongly endorses the view that some research work ought to be done in finding out the causes for the special diseases which are responsible for the high percentage of mortality especially in this Presidency. Instead of allowing the diseases to grow and then find out the ways and means to cure them, I think we should prevent the growth of the disease. If we are to find out exactly what are the special reasons that contribute to this high rate of mortality, then it will not only minimize the mortality but also minimize the enormous amount we are spending in this direction. Therefore I must very strongly support this motion."

The demand was put to the House and carried and the grant was made.

GRANT XXIV—CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES—TRANSFERRED.

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—"On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that—

'*the Government be granted a further sum not exceeding Rs.* 2,700 *under Grant XXIV—Co-operative Societies—Transferred to provide for the grant of subsidy to the Madras Provincial Co-operative Union and the District Federations of Vellore and Coimbatore.*'

"Sir, the necessity for the grant has been explained in the explanatory note supplied to hon. Members. The Finance Committee has recommended the amount and I trust the House will sanction the same."

The demand was put to the House and carried and the grant was made.

GRANT XXIX—CIVIL WORKS—GRANTS-IN-AID—TRANSFERRED.

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that—

'*the Government be granted a further sum not exceeding Rs.* 85,000 *under Grant XXIX—Civil Works—Grants-in-aid—Transferred.*'

"Sir, these are meant for subsidies to the Vizagapatam District Board and East and West Godavari District Boards for putting in order the roads that have been damaged by recent floods. The total amount of such subsidies will be Rs. 4·71 lakhs. This amount of Rs. 85,000 has to be paid in this financial year and the rest of the amount will be provided in the Budget for 1929–30 I may inform the House that the proportion in which these grants have to be distributed are given in the explanatory note as follows :—

	RS.		RS.
Vizagapatam District Board.	32,500	Trunk roads ...	21,000
		Second-class roads ...	8,000
		Other roads ...	3,500
East Godavari District Board.	16,000	Trunk roads ...	6,000
		Second-class roads ...	10,000
West Godavari District Board.	36,500	Trunk roads ...	18,000
		Second-class roads ...	18,500

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"I may inform the House that the same proportion that is being observed in the subsidies that are being given will be observed in the case of subsidies to be given hereafter."

Mr. C. RAMASOMAYAJULU :—"Sir, I do not want to oppose the grant of Rs. 85,000 ; but I want to express my sense of the inadequacy of the grant especially to the East Godavari district. Apparently the hon. the Minister . . ." 12-45 p.m.

The hon Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"Sir, the hon. Member may not continue his speech if I tell him that the amount allotted in the grant is exactly the same as the President of the East Godavari District Board had telegraphed for and said he could spend this year. For next year we are making separate provision in the Budget."

Mr. C. RAMASOMAYAJULU :—"I have no objection, Sir."

The demand was put to the House and carried and the grant was made.

V

A BILL FURTHER TO AMEND THE MADRAS CIVIL COURTS ACT, 1873.

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"Sir, I introduce a Bill * further to amend the Madras Civil Courts Act, 1873, and move that the Bill be taken into consideration at once."

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—"I second it."

* Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—"Sir, I have to oppose the motion for taking into consideration at once this Bill. It is a very important measure and it is highly desirable that the several aspects of it should be considered in the Select Committee. I move that the consideration of this Bill be postponed."

Mr. T. K. CHIDAMBARANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"I second it."

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"I thought it was a simple matter, a mere technical Bill ; but since my hon. Friend objects to it, I have no objection to withdraw the motion and come forward with a motion later on for consideration of the Bill in a Select Committee."

The motion was by leave of the House withdrawn.

VI

A BILL TO AMEND THE MADRAS UNIVERSITY ACT, 1923.

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"I move that the Bill to amend the Madras University Act be passed into law."

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—"I second it."

The hon Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"Sir, the passing of this Bill into law was deferred last time in order to see whether any amendments were necessary to put the Bill into proper shape. I have accordingly given notice of several amendments which have been in the hands of hon. Members. Most of them are of a formal nature and I move them in the order given in the agenda.

Clause 1.

"I move that for the figures '1928' in line 2 the figures '1929' be substituted.".

* Published in the *Fort St. George Gazette* on 4th December 1928 as Bill No. 18.